

REPORT OF THE LAKES REGION HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCT FACILITY

The 2006 season for the LRHHPF offered 6 days of safe, convenient, environmentally sound, disposal of common household hazardous waste on the 3rd Saturday of the month May through October, 8:30-noon. The fourth full season of collections at 404 Beach Pond Rd, Wolfeboro hosted the first NH pharmaceutical hazardous waste collection.

Always striving to provide relevant services to the member communities (as well as non-members on a fee basis) the Facility partnered with Northeast Recycling Council's (NERC) Lynn Rubinstein from Brattleboro, VT. NERC's pilot program funding includes money from the Dept of Agriculture as medicines are considered pesticides within the hazardous waste disposal protocol, and EPA which is studying 40 wastewater treatment plants in New England's Region I for medicines which are virtually unaltered in the biodegradation process and appear downstream in drinking water supplies. A US Geological Survey national reconnaissance of streams 1999-2000 found pharmaceuticals, hormones, and other organic wastewater contaminants in 80% of the sampled streams. Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute found 9 different drugs, adding painkillers and cholesterol-lowering meds to the antibiotics, antidepressants, birth control pills, and personal-care products such as fragrances, cosmetics, sunscreens, DEET insect repellents, soaps, shampoos, etc.

Working in conjunction with pharmacist Don McBride, Lt. Dean Rondeau, NERC, and Clean Harbors HHW personnel, the Facility complied with EPA, DEA, and Health and Human Services regulations for over-the-counter, prescription, and controlled drugs. The Facility's pilot program addresses state and federal solid waste and hazardous waste laws as well. From 27 households that attended the August collection, 24 gallons of pharmaceutical waste were collected as well as a gallon of controlled substances.

The Facility will continue to educate the public to the dangers of flushing to sewer or septic systems which leads to drinking and bathing in someone else's drugs. Crushing and tossing of medicines is not allowed by solid waste regulations. Disposing of bottles in the trash, in addition to being illegal, offers many opportunities for unauthorized use as containers break and plastic bags tear with great regularity. Special medicine collection days will be advertised in advance of the specific collection date due to the necessity of pharmacist and law enforcement presence.

Collection dates for household hazardous waste are as follows: May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, and October 20. Place household hazardous wastes in their original containers inside a sturdy cardboard box prior to loading them into your trunk. Glass containers can be cushioned with crumpled newspaper. When open, the entrance to the facility is marked with 2 sunny yellow A-frame signs at the bottom of the hill by the Wolfeboro Solid Waste Facility.

Thank you to those that have attended for protecting your family's health, and your community's resources, by properly disposing of toxic, flammable, or corrosive products, as well as lawful disposal of unwanted human and pet medications. The LRHHPF is proud to assist you in greatly reducing the risk of injury and death for those that provide services at the solid waste facility by removing that 1% from the solid waste stream that causes 90% of the problems. A heart-felt thank you to the Alton and Wolfeboro Conservation Commission volunteers who faithfully assisted in soggy conditions so that those attending could be processed in a timely manner.

During the off-season please direct questions to Sarah M Silk, Site Coordinator at 569-2073 or 651-7530 (cell). May through October messages can also be left on collection days at the facility phone: 569-Let's Take Care Of it.

Respectfully submitted for the LRHHPF Joint Board,
Sarah M Silk, Secretary/Vice-Chair (W'boro BOS)
Board Members: Alan Sherwood, Chair/Treasurer (Alton BOS)
Tom Hoopes, Alton alt. rep (Cons Comm/Plng Bd)
Kim Koulet, Exec Dir LRPC (Advisory position)



Dewitt Cove